

November 22, 1952

Dr. M. S. Dunn
Department of Chemistry
University of California
Los Angeles 24, Calif.

Dear Dr. Dunn:

I am enclosing a marked catalog which will, I hope, serve to answer part of your letter of November 13.

It is impossible to advise sensibly on the administration of a genetics curriculum without detailed knowledge of local needs and conditions. It seems to me less important how the department is organized than that a student should find it possible to arrange a major in Genetics without having to pay undue service to other specialties in botany or zoology. At some universities, a separate department serves this purpose; at others an interdepartmental committee does as well.

These remarks concern graduate training in genetics. Genetics is clearly unsuitable as an undergraduate major, and our students are drawn from majors in botany, zoology, bacteriology, and other particular lifesciences.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics